



Red River Current News|letter

A Fort McKay First Nation Publication

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Special meeting of the Treaty 8 Chiefs of Alberta in FMFN



Left to right: Elder Lawrence Courtoreille, Chief Billy Joe Laboucan – Lubicon Lake Band, Chief Sheldon Sunshine–Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Chief Raymond Powder, and Grand Chief of Treaty 8, Trevor Mercredi.

Fort McKay Chief and Council welcomed Chiefs, Elders and Dignitaries to the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Treaty 8 on August 2nd, 2024, and a special meeting of the Treaty 8 Chiefs of Alberta. Chief Raymond Powder led the Grand Entry with Elder Lina Gallup and Councillors Melinda Stewart and Bobby Shott. Honoured guests included Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Treaty 8 Nations of Alberta Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi and Deputy Chief Ramona Horseman.

They were followed by many of the Treaty 8 Chiefs of Alberta, Treaty 8 Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Cultural Carriers. Alberta's Minister of

Indigenous Relations Rick Wilson, RMWB Mayor Sandy Bowman and RCMP Chief Superintendent Mark Hancock also participated. The weekend was an opportunity for Treaty 8 Chiefs to meet and discuss areas of mutual interest. In addition, it was a celebration of the Nation Members of the Treaty 8 Region.



RMWB Mayor Sandy Bowman and Alberta's Minister of Indigenous Relations Rick Wilson.

POOL AND THE ADULT RECREATION CENTRE

The Adult male pool team has had a busy year participating in multiple tournaments (Battle of the Bands, Western Championships, the Tsuut'ina Nation Indigenous 8-ball Tournament and The Canadian Championships). They also finished high in the Fort McMurray Legion Gold Division. Congratulations Roy McDonald, Gilbert Estes, Maurice McDonald Sr, and Curtis McDonald.

We will have two adult teams this year participating in the Gold and Silver divisions at the Royal Canadian Legion Fort McMurray League.

Continued on page 3



TREATY 8 CHIEFS' MEETING

FMFN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Raymond Powder, Chief
David Bouchier, Councillor
Crystal McDonald, Councillor
Bobby Shott, Councillor
Melinda Stewart, Councillor

Rhonda Laboucan, CEO
Alvaro Pinto, CEO Oilsands
Development and Sustainability

ADMINISTRATION DEPT.
Dorothy McDonald Business
Centre, General Delivery,
Fort McKay, AB TOP 1C0

Phone: 780-828-2430

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed daily: 12 - 1 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have any photos, stories or
ideas for the Red River Current,
please contact us via email at:
communications@fortmckay.com

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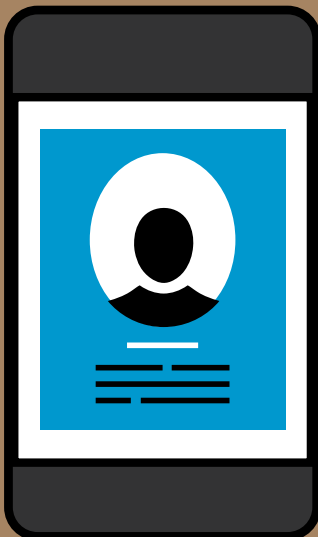
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Left to right: Councillor Bobby Shott, Councillor Melinda Stewart, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, and Chief Raymond Powder.



Chief Powder addresses the meeting.



Our Fort McKay youth.



Fort McKay Elders in the procession of Treaty 8 Chiefs.

FMFN POOL TEAM

Continued from page 1

The Gold Team, the Fort McKay Northern Warriors, will consist of Shawn Simpson, Rick Bouchier, Roy McDonald, Gilbert Estes, Maurice McDonald Sr and Curtis McDonald, while the Silver team, the Fort McKay Chalk 'Em Up, will have Roy McDonald managing a team of Angela Bouchier, Steve Benoit, Ray Courtoreille, Calvin Kennedy, Garnet Ahyasou, and Wally Orr. They will be playing in the two Divisions of the Fort McMurray Impact League and in addition some of the players will be taking part

in ranking tournaments all through the rest of 2024 and into 2025, including a qualifier in Edmonton for next year's world championship in Las Vegas as well as an Indigenous tournament in Cold Lake and a Battle of the Bands in Red Deer.

Next up for the Adult Recreation Centre (ARC) is a woman's team. "Most of the tournaments have separate ladies individual and team competitions," said ARC manager Roy. "Our next step is to get more ladies involved so we can enter a team for these events."

There are junior tournaments as well, and Roy is hoping to start 'em young and get the youth of Fort McKay involved. Pool is a fun social game, but it is also highly skilled and teaches strategy and teamwork.

The ARC is located upstairs in the hockey arena. If you are interested in playing, come on down and chat to Roy.



Gilbert Estes prepares to break in a practice game.



Roy McDonald practising hard.

In this Issue...

Special Meeting of Treaty 8 Chiefs of Alberta in FMFN	1 & 2
Pool and the Adult Recreation Centre	1 & 3
125th Anniversary Celebration.....	4 & 5
Alberta Indigenous Games Report.....	6
FMFN Elders at Lac Ste Anne	7
Stampede Luncheon Honours Business Partners	8
Chief Powder at Assembly of First Nations.....	9
Fort McKay First Nation Trade Show	10 & 11
Junior Summer Student Program	12 & 13
2024 U18 Womens National Football Championship.....	14
New Season Awaits Fort McKay Braves.....	15
Staff News	15
Upcoming Events	16

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY 8

125th Anniversary Celebration

Fort McKay Chief and Council welcomed Chiefs, Elders and Dignitaries to the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8, on Sunday, August 4th 2024. Following the Blessings there were Cree and Dene drum recitals which included Honour Songs.

Dignitaries who joined in our celebrations were Chief Andy Alook of Bigstone First Nation, Eva Clayton, President, Nisga'a First Nation in British Columbia, Eric Clayton, Hereditary Chief from Nisga'a First Nation, MLA for Fort McMurray and Cold Lake Laila Goodridge, and RMWB Councillor Jane Stroud. Gifts were also handed out to all our Elders. The gifts contained flour, baking powder, snare wire, a gift card, bacon, lard, a blanket and twine. The ceremony was followed by a community dinner and a round dance.



125TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY 8



FORT MCKAY HEALTH CENTRE

Clinic Dates:

Dr O'Connor - Sept 3rd - 6th
Dr Taiwo - Sept 24th - 26th
PCN Nurse - Every Mon & Wed

Please call in advance if you need to make an appointment with Dr. O'Connor or Charlene.

Immunizations:

Contact the Health Centre to make an appointment with the Public Health Nurse.

For more information on other services offered at the Health Centre, please contact the centre at **780.828.2450**.

FORT MCKAY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Employment and Training Centre is there to help you with creating/ updating resumes, searching for and applying for jobs, and offering support for employment and training.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact the office at **780.828.2478**.

FORT MCKAY 106.3 FM



STAY up to date with the latest music and news!!

Listening to Fort McKay's community radio station!

www.fortmackayfm.com

Alberta Indigenous Games Report

The Alberta Indigenous Games this year were billed as North America's largest Indigenous summer games as well as Canada's largest summer games in 2024. There were 18 sports, more than 425 teams and over 7000 participants. Held in Edmonton from August 7-17, competitors, coaches and officials represented the Nation with pride and much success. Let's celebrate our youth mentioned below, and everyone who took part in the games.

The Hand Games team, coached by Leon Grandjambe, won gold in their division. Congratulations to Savannah Dyson, Joely Grandjambe, Sadie Gladue, Blake Hoffman, Cruz Fabian, Patience Grandjambe and Kalishia Mercredi. In addition, Cruz received a Circle of Courage Spirit of Independence award.

Tayden Shott continued his excellent, winning Gold in the U17 Archery. He adds this to several medals over the last couple of years (too numerous to mention) in provincial and indigenous games across Canada. Tayden also uses his talent to be an ambassador for the sport and led a clinic in archery at the recent Treaty Days in Fort McKay to introduce the sport to the youth of the Nation. Well done, Tayden.

In athletics, Chanel McClure, Gabby Gladue and Alicia Gladue brought home eight medals from the games.

Chanel McClure (Junior Category)- placed 6th in the 200m final. Chanel also won (Junior Category)-Gold in Shot Put throwing 8.02ft, Bronze in Javelin throwing 17.46ft, and came 10th in the 100m.

Gabby Gladue (Intermediate Category)- Gold in Discus with a throw of 20.24ft (outthrowing the Senior Girls category by over 3ft), Bronze in Javelin with a throw of 14.56ft & Silver in Shot Put at 7.56ft

Alicia Gladue (Senior Category) - Gold in Javelin with a throw of 21.65ft, Gold in Shot Put at 8.37ft, and Silver in Discus with a throw of 14.15ft

Gabby was also approached by the Alberta Circle of Courage and was honoured with a "Spirit of Independence Award" for showing not only dedication to the sport but also encouragement, sportsmanship & guidance to her competitors.

Way to go Gabby, Alicia & Chanel.



FORT MCKAY ELDERS

FMFN Elders at Lac Ste Anne

Fort McKay Chief and Council joined Band members and Elders at the annual Lac Ste Anne pilgrimage. Despite the heat, the 2024 outdoor event was enjoyed by all. Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage has been designated a national historic site because, since 1889, Indigenous people, including Dene, Cree and Blackfoot have been coming every July to the site, 75 kilometres northwest of Edmonton.



Stampede Luncheon Honours Business Partners

Fort McKay First Nation hosted another well-attended Business Success luncheon on Friday, July 12, 2024, at the River Cafe in Calgary. The purpose of this event, held annually during the Calgary Stampede, is to share and showcase positive news about Fort McKay First Nation's business successes.

Fort McKay First Nation is proud of the work that we do with our business partners throughout Alberta. The event was an opportunity to show our gratitude to our many business and industry partners and stakeholders.

Speakers Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor Bobby Shott, and FMFN Group of Companies CEO Sami Saad addressed the gathering. Chief and Council also presented gifts to partners and stakeholders.

In his remarks, Chief Powder acknowledged the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8, and

thanked many of those present for sponsoring FMFN's 2024 Treaty Days celebration in June. "We appreciate that your support extends beyond the boardroom and the bottom line," said Chief Powder. "You also support us in showcasing our rich cultural heritage."

A special thank you to Rick Wilson, Alberta's Minister of Indigenous Relations, for joining us as we celebrated the ongoing efforts related to economic reconciliation.



Left to right: Councillor David Bouchier, Alberta's Minister of Indigenous Relations Rick Wilson, Chief Raymond Powder, Councillor Crystal McDonald, Councillor Melinda Stewart, and Councillor Bobby Shott.



CHIEF AND COUNCIL NEWS

Chief Powder at Assembly of First Nations

Chief Powder was in Montreal for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) at its 45th annual general assembly between July 9th to 11th with the theme of “Strengthening Our Relations.”

This year’s gathering included a lengthy agenda with presentations on First Nations policing, specific claims, the First Nations Clean Water Act, as well as updates on the status on long-term reform to the First Nations Child and Family Services program and Jordan’s Principle.

A First Nations and Inuit Policing Program, which funds police services in communities, was also on the agenda with calls for it to be recognized as an essential service. National Chief Cindy Woodhouse said policing is one of her priorities and that she invited Public Safety Minister Dominic Leblanc to address the assembly to discuss it.

Invited speakers also included Justice Minister Arif Virani, Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre, and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh.

There was a record number of resolutions on the agenda, more than 75. The agenda also included an update on an audit of AFN’s financial and management policies.

The annual general assembly finished on July 11th. The AFN holds assemblies twice a year. Woodhouse Nepinak said this year there will be a special assembly focused on child welfare that will take place in Winnipeg from September 17th to the 19th.



FORT MCKAY ELDERS BINGO!

Date
Thursdays

Time
Noon - 2:00 pm

Location
Elders Centre

Call Peggy for cards at
780-598-3575.



CFWE RADIO BINGO

Date
Mondays and Saturdays

Time
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location
Fort McKay Radio
Canada



Fort McKay First Nation Trade Show

The Fort McKay Trade Show was held on July 30th at the Fort McKay Arena. More than 150 community members participated throughout the day. In addition, 36 companies and organizations, as well as 4 different FMFN departments, had booths at the show. Over 100 staff members from all the participating organizations came to support all the booths and represent their respective organizations. The amazing food was provided by Evelyn, Alexis, and Vanessa.

We would also like to recognise all the staff from Sustainability, Human Resources, and Communications who helped make this event so successful, with a special shoutout to Simon Adams, Jesse Rodriguez, and the entire youth/summer student team that helped get the arena ready, helped complete setup and take-down, and provided an awesome coffee/tea and refreshments booth for the event!



FMFN EVENTS



FORT MCKAY CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

DANCER AND DRUMMER PERFORMANCES

- Traditional Healing Assistance
- Round Dance / Dene Dance
- Cultural Workshops
- Moose/Bufalo Lake Summer Retreat
- Moose Lake Camps & Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Community & Special Events

CREE & DENE CLASSES

Every Tuesday Cree class on Zoom.

Every Wednesday Dene class on Zoom.

To register, contact culture@fortmckay.com

DRUM PRACTICE

Every Wednesday at 6 pm in the Band Hall.

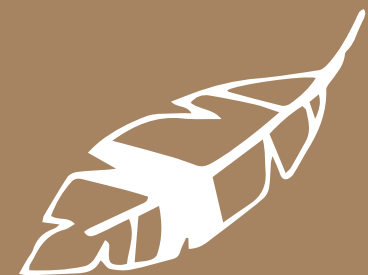
All males welcome. Drop In, no registration required!



If you would like to be a volunteer or be a Resource Worker for some of our programs or events, please submit an email, please include what events you are interested in, or what skill sets you can provide. First priority will be given to community members.

For more information about our upcoming programs, please contact:

Audrey Redcrow
Cultural and Special Events Lead
780-215-2384
Aredcrow@fortmckay.com

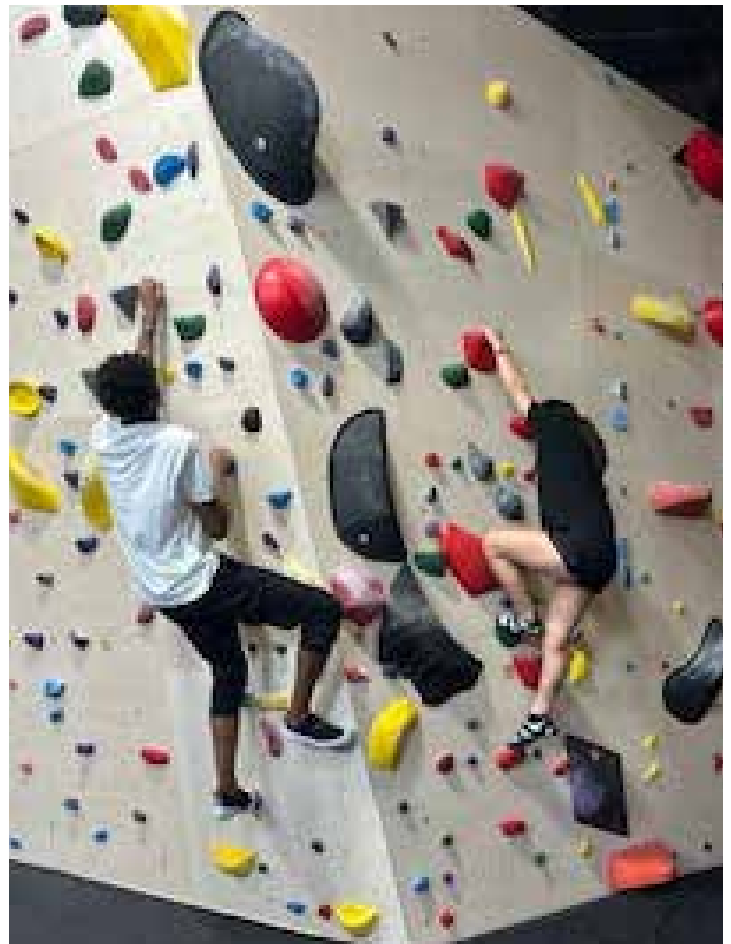


Junior Summer Student Program

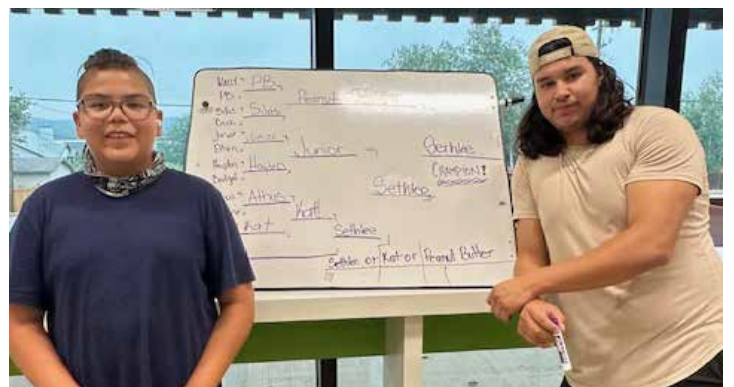
The Junior Summer Student Program (JSS) is concluding its 6th year. Annually, the program includes from 18 to 30 young people aged 12 to 14.

The JSS Program is designed to build skills and competency to prepare youth for the workforce. This program emphasizes building critical life skills to ensure youth are not only equipped with the tools to be successful in the workforce, but also provides a wide range of information and knowledge to foster resiliency, critical thinking, and fulfillment as they enter into adulthood.

Some of the programs that have been provided in the past include Anxiety and Stress Management, Financial Literacy, Mental Health 101 and Emotional Regulation, Online/Internet Safety, Healthy Relationships, Resume Building, Career Planning, Indigenous Entrepreneurship, Environmental Studies, as well as various opportunities to job shadow and participate in an array of cultural and land-based teachings. As you can see from the pictures, the participants had a lot of fun.



FMFN YOUTH



2024 U18 Women's Nationals Football Championship

After a season that was marred by scheduling issues caused by the wildfires in May, the Fort McKay Northern Spirits team still managed to have four community members selected to the Canadian Indigenous team that took part in the National Canada Cup competition in New Brunswick in July. Unfortunately one of the players selected, Chanel McClure, fell ill and was unable to be part of the competition. Best wishes for next time Chanel. The other three members, Gabby Gladue, Kayleigh Boucher and Ashlynn Shortman all had good tournaments, with the first game against Ontario Black resulting in an impressive victory by a score of 32-21. This was the Northern Spirits' first win in the program's history and an emphatic statement that the team was there to play. Kayleigh in particular had a very good game, rushing for an average of nearly 5 yards per carry, including two excellent plays of 7 and 9 yards for 1st downs.

The second game against New Brunswick was even better, with a thrilling 22-20 comeback victory built on a second half rally, after being 14-0 down at half-time. So hopes were high going into the final game, but sadly Saskatchewan proved too much for the Indigenous team, winning 51-6. Although they never gave up and may have even shaded the second-half, the game was over by half-time with Saskatchewan already 44 points to the good.

Still there is much to be proud of in the Nation. In addition to the four locals selected for the team, the Northern Spirits had four other players from Fort McMurray in the squad. This contingent of eight was by far the largest

representation of players and showcased the power and spirit of Spirits football. In addition Dylan Elias and Alicia Gladue were assistant coaches and the Head Coach was also the Northern Spirits' own, Samantha Big Swallow.

Results and representation at the national level are testimony to the success of the Fort McKay Football Program. Congratulations to all who participated in New Brunswick and to the entire Northern Spirits organization, the foundation for this success. Onwards and Upwards to 2025.



New Season awaits the defending Champions Fort McKay Braves

The Fort McKay Braves men's hockey team, champions of the Fort McMurray A Division in 2023-24 are hoping for bigger and better results in 2024-25.

"We believe the squad is stronger this year," said Simon Adams, "and even though they won the league last season there is always room to grow and get better."

"We are excited to get the season going in September and do our best to repeat as champions," said Shay Laurent. The team will also be returning to the Fred Saskamoose Chief Thunderstick national hockey tournament early in 2025 with a much better idea of what they need to do to succeed. Watch this space.



Dr. Sarah Hiscock our new Principal for Elsie Fabian School

Fort McKay First Nation is happy to announce that we have hired a new Principal for Elsie Fabian School. Dr. Sarah Hiscock is a Mi'kmaq educator and a proud member of Qalipu First Nation. She is passionate about Indigenous education and providing an inclusive learning environment where every student can be successful and feel that they belong. Sarah is excited to be part of the Elsie Fabian team and is looking forward to the upcoming school year.

Originally from Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Sarah moved to Fort McMurray in 2006, and has spent 17 years working in the Public Schools Division. Her first few years were at Composite High School where she taught English Language Arts and Social Studies from grades 9-11. In 2011, she joined Frank Spragins School as the English and Social Studies teacher, later becoming the Off-Campus/Home Education Coordinator. In this role she also deputized for the Principal on numerous occasions.

Sarah came to Fort McMurray with double Bachelor Degrees in Arts and Education. In 2020 she finished her Master's in Education on leadership and administration, and this year Sarah also completed her Doctorate with the acceptance of her thesis, 'Improving Attendance for At-Risk Youth through Targeted Parent Communications'. She has also been nominated for the Edwin Parr Award from the Alberta School Boards Association, and an Excellence in

Teaching Award from the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Sarah believes in being an active part of the community and has been a continual volunteer during her time in the Region, including representing the Teachers' Association, work with the Centre of Hope Soup Kitchen, Keyano College, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, the Outreach Education Council, and the Justin Slade Youth Foundation.

Outside of school, Sarah says of herself, "I have a husband and a daughter that I feel very grateful to have in my life and I love spending time with my family and friends. We have a nice little cottage down toward Athabasca where we spend our summers relaxing and being together. In my spare time I also love playing guitar, travelling, reading, and meeting new and interesting people."

Join us please, in welcoming Sarah to the Nation and our school. We are delighted to have her on the team.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Day	Date	Event	Details
Fri	Sept 6	Ice Cream Friday at the Elders Centre	11:30am - 1:30 pm River Café
Fri	Sept 6	Collage/Vision Board making with Brace, 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara. 780-972-9810
Fri	Sept 6	Dr. O'Connor Health Visit	Call the Health centre for an appointment at 780-828-2453
Sat & Sun	Sept 7 & 8	Next Door Thrift Store in the Youth Centre	10am-4pm. Contact Val McDonald at 780-690-6074
Mon	Sept 9	Head start program starts at Fort McKay Daycare	For more Information contact Tina Black at 780-747-3162
Every Mon	Sept 9 to Sept 30	Health Centre: Mental Health Travel Team. 10am - 4pm	Appointments and Walk-ins. Contact The Health Centre at 780-828-2450
Mon & Wed	Sept 9 to Sept 30	Drop in Workout at the Youth Centre 4:30pm - 9pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Mon	Sept 9	Viideo Game Night at Youth Centre	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Tues	Sept 10	Yoga Class with Carla Playford, 4.45pm - 5.45pm.	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Every Tues	Sept 10 to Sept 24	Outdoor Basketball at the Old School Playground. 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Tues	Sept 10	Candle making at the Youth Centre. 5pm - 7pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Wed	Sept 11	Tie Dye Night in the Youth Centre, 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Wed	Sept 11	Cornhole Set Building 5pm - 7:30pm, Location TBA	Adult Event. Contact Stefany at 780-714-7094
Thurs	Sept 12	Pool Tournament in the Youth Centre, 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Thurs to Sun	Sept 12 to Sept 15	ATC Cultural Festival, Sny Point Park, Fort McMurray	www.atcculturalfestival.ca
Mon	Sept 16	Soap Making in the Youth Centre, 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Wed	Sept 18	Nail Night in the Youth Centre, 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Mon	Sept 23	Mural Night with Brace in the Youth Centre & Kickball Tournament on the Old Baseball Field. Both 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Tues	Sept 24	Boba tea-making, 6pm - 9pm in the Youth Centre	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Wed	Sept 25	Orange shirt day pin making in the Youth Centre, 6pm - 8pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810
Thur	Sept 26	The Man Van. Prostate cancer screening. Fast and free. 3pm - 7pm	Contact The Health Centre, 780-828-2450. No Appointment Necessary.
Fri	Sept 27	Movie Night with Snacks, in the Youth Centre. 6pm - 9pm	Ages 12-18. Contact Katara at 780-972-9810